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MAY, 1917

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San Diego Floral Association
San Diego Club House
Tuesday evening, June 19, 7:45

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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Getting Back to the Soil

IT is inevitable that a Garden paper should comment at length upon the "back to the soil" movement, whether that soil be ranch, lot or vacant yard, and a good, bad or indifferent medium for growing what is to be planted. That some of us are in real earnest in this campaign is quite evident and it is a national characteristic to be rather intense and before condemning this it is well to consider how far it has already carried this nation among the peoples of the globe.

So much to show we are just as loyal and patriotic as the next one, even if we find it necessary to inject a certain caution into the Hoop-La of our proceedings.

We have our boundless enthusiasm, Thank God for that; we have the call from our well-loved leader "Plant Foodstuffs", and we are going to do it, Yes Sirree! Sure Thing! It seems so simple (seed, water, vacant lots, labor, money), but just as this is the big planting time for garden stuff in localities with winters, so has the passing of our wet and cooler time brought adverse conditions for many things that eat mighty well. Peatime is gone, so has potato possibility, unless things have greatly changed since we tried it, and all small seed are very difficult to sprout when the top of the ground cannot be kept moist, and by the top of the ground we mean the surface, for the rule of planting says "bury a seed four times its size."

Don't run away with the idea that this is meant as discouragement, for it is merely a call to think before planting anything or everything you ever saw in the way of vegetable and investing many cents per pound in seed potatoes at this season. No doubt the various committees that have in charge this work have those who know how, when and what to plant and will be glad to render this service, and the seed stores know the calls that come with the seasons. The planting feeds no one; it is the harvest that brings the eats, and between the two there is apt to be that manoeuvre which has been so long projected between the cup and the lip. Certain folks from other lands have raised the bulk of our garden truck in the past chiefly because lacking our enthusiastic introduction they have patiently plodded along through the continuous routine between the seed and fruition.

We read of a wholesale plowing up of lawns to plant vegetables which seems rather intense, with all the vacant ground everywhere that will not be planted, in fact it verges upon hysteria, for the reports that come from the three-year harried lands in Europe show that war is not a subtraction, or a substitution, but an *addition*. It calls for *more* effort, not a mere change of occupation. In saying this we admit the privilege of each one to interpret for himself the call. It is hard to enter into the reasoning of those who when solicited to start a home vegetable garden reply, "Oh we can buy our vegetables", and the reason is not easier to find because of a possibility that we may in spots have more of some kinds of things than we can use, an inevitable consequence of our urges. It would seem that at a time when a national unity of sentiment formed a tremendous factor in the success of our undertaking everybody would like to express themselves even if only in planting a few hills of corn or beans, and this is why no one may laugh at even misdirected efforts in planting now, for they spell heart service and loyalty.

The less such a catastrophe as war, for such it is even when righteous as we believe this one to be on America's part, disturbs the orderly sequence of everyday life, the easier it is waged and the easier are its reckonings afterwards and perhaps the

greatest exposure of our national weakness today is in the spectacle of so many trading on the events of the war and to all intents and purposes betting upon the result and its duration when we have stopped wagering on horse races.

We are always inclined to be discursive and certainly have not failed this time, but getting back to the backyard, we believe everyone with such a thing, or a front garden, should raise at least some of the vegetables they eat, both for their own good as well as their country's.

The Rose

By A. D. ROBINSON

THE Tenth Rose Show has come and gone with a record of almost phenomenal interest. Elsewhere it will be reported in detail, but here is taken up the rose points for the rose grower.

Contrary to the always popular verdict of the best ever, the rain of a few days previous had seriously damaged the quality of those varieties with delicate petals that freely absorb water and with two exceptions, "Frau Karl Druschki", was poor, but a new white shown by Balboa Park, "Mrs. Herbert Stevens", is very promising and should be noted for trial another year. General McArthur easily held its place as our best red, the best exhibit of them being close to perfection in color, form and foliage. The real yellow has not yet appeared, but the shaded yellows or pinks are quite numerous and very worthy. Howard and Smith's "Los Angeles" was well shown by The Park, and the first of the class, Lyon, took the prize for the one best rose, while the few Madame Edouard Heriot were a flame where they stood. Los Angeles all through, with its vigorous habit and number of blooms, is the best, but a perfect Lyon still is the one best, though these don't come very day and Heriot takes the palm for color.

Sunburst, Lady Hillingdon and Mrs. Aaron Ward all showed up well, the first and the last being necessary to a modern collection, but the middle lady is a bit shy though delightful when she is not self-conscious.

Benard once again, after a few years' rest, to give others a chance, presumably, made a characteristic exhibit, and besides old favorites, had these of decided merit: Countess of Cayla, a vivid, warm, coppery red, not large but very vigorous and floriferous, (the writer knows from experience that it should be widely grown) Lady Roberts, of nice form, ruddy at base of petal shading to white; Countess of Gesford, a delightful pink.

Elsewhere in the Hall there was a small, but very good yellow rose, called "Shower of Gold," that one exhibitor has brought in year after year and the rest of us have not had the sense to grow. Irish Fireflame ,a lovely single copper with the best of foliage, and a Burbank single polyantha climber, white edged pink, like a sweet pea shown in a basket.

The Cochets seem to have dropped right out of favor; the few shown were distinctly inferior.

It would not be just to pass the show without giving a mead of praise to the excellent stock grown under glass and well shown by Boyle and Darnaud, a complete home product.

We have now again with us the Rosebug, who feeds by night on the most delicate petals and he has to be picked by hand with a flashlight. Aphis is supporting life on the young shoots while waiting for the crop of vacant lot vegetables, but there are many sprays that will discourage him and even a forceful stream of water upsets his home economy.

The warm weather roses want plenty of water, blooms should be cut freely if the crop is to be kept going and fertilizing will not be thrown away.

Note the Association Meeting Dates and Places on Page 14

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews

THIS is a good month to rearrange your garden. Where you are not just satisfied with it, you may attempt it mentally, but a far better plan is to make notes of every blooming thing (no slang), and well-grown plant, and decide what you wish to have again next season, and what you will eliminate. Bulbs that have bloomed in the hardy border can, where the foliage has turned brown, be lifted and the space given to annuals or some of the late blooming kinds of perennials.

Where you strive to have a beautiful and successful garden, always have an eye to the future, but occasionally look backward and see where your mistakes were and profit by them. You can put in seeds of most all the late blooming annuals and they will do well, but let us have lots of the hardy, enduring perennials next year. Campanulas, delphiniums, Shasta daisies, penstemons, clove pinks, sweet williams and others, will, if planted now, give a wealth of bloom early next season, and if properly cared for, when blooming time is past. will endure for several years, thus saving time usually given to annuals that have constantly to be renewed. Of course many of these seed themselves each season, and some of the most beautiful flowers in the garden are annuals, but in these busy times, where the days are so short for all we have to do, bulbs and reliable perennials are best. Among the newer ones try a few Geum, Heuchera, Transvaal daisies (if you can get seed) and also the new Senecio Clirorum with large leaves and brilliant, deep, yellow flowers. Speaking of these brings to mind the cineraria, which is really a Senecio, it is one of the most effective late winter and early spring bloomers we have, and is easily grown from seed. In plants for next season sow through May and June, scatter the seeds thinly over the surface of the soil in a very shallow box. The soil should be light and fine. Put the box in a shaded spot and keep the soil moist by shading with a piece of cheese cloth and spraying through this every evening. Keep the cloth over the box till the young plants prick through the soil, after that water carefully with a fine spray. When the young plants have made a few leaves, prick them off into other boxes, letting them stand about two inches apart; keep them out of the wind but give sunshine and air. The young plants are quite delicate and a strong wind soon ruins them. When the box becomes filled with roots, lift again and put into deep pots where they can be grown on till put into permanent quarters. The soil should be turfy loam and sand. These growing instructions, which can be applied to me by a person who grew the finest cinermany other delicate subjects, were given to arias and primulas I have ever seen.

Solanum capsicastrum, or Jerusalem cherry, and also solanum African holly, make decorative plants and are as easily grown as tomatoes. If you want them for Christmas decoration, sow the seed now in the seed bed, and when well formed little plants put in the open and keep them growing right along. When the berries are formed feed with liquid manure. The new Solanum Ciliatum from Porto Rico, mentioned before, promises well from description. As a last word in regard to all these things, save seeds from all desirables, as the seed crop from elsewhere may be very short, and California will be able to do her share in supplying the deficit if we all save—but do not let us ruin our reputation for good things by saving just any kind, only the best and purest.

Cannas can still be subdivided and where well arranged will furnish bright spots in the garden for a long season. Plant poinsettias this month, also trim back your old bushes now. Watch your chrysanthemums closely; do not let them lack for water at any time and keep back the suckers from the root.

If your China asters are still in boxes put them in the ground in well prepared soil.

Carnations should be set, also old violet beds gone over.

Irrigate, cultivate, weed and spray this month. Where manure is not to be had work in bone meal very carefully into the soil and water freely to prevent burning. Where plants are coming into bloom a little nitrate round the roots is good—about a teaspoonful to a gallon of water. Do not let it touch the foliage.

Annual Meeting, San Diego Club House, June 19, 7:45 p. m.

The Vegetable Garden

By Walter Birch

THE food supply question being the most vital one before the world today, it is a good thing for us to realize that we can all help by becoming producers, even in a small way. It is unquestionably our duty to do this. This movement of utilizing our vacant lots for this purpose is a capital one, and although it is late in the season to break fresh ground for gardening, still if the work is thoroughly done, there can be a good deal of extra garden truck raised this year, and the lots will be in fine shape for gardening next year, when the extra supply will be just as much needed as it is now. You will then congratulate yourself on having made a start this year, when you find how much easier it is to work your ground next year. Your lot being plowed and harrowed it will be well to lay it off in sections (unless you are in a position to put it all in at once) and make furrows 3 or 4 feet apart, in which to slowly run water until the ground is well wet. Rake this over as soon as possible to prevent evaporation, and then when a little dryer cultivate thoroughly. The most practical things to plant from a food standpoint are potatoes, beans, tomatoes and sweet corn, as they can all be kept for a considerable time if necessary.

The best beans for selling green or drying are the Limas, Ventura Wonder Wax, Pink Beans and Lady Washington Beans. Any of these will do well in San Diego, and the last two further back from the coast. The Limas and Ventura are a good market bean either green or dry. The Stone Tomato is one of the best all around commercial tomatoes, and the Golden Bantam and Oregon Evergreen Sweet Corn. In addition to the foregoing there is no reason why you cannot have practically the whole list of vegetables, as May is one of the best planting months in the year, but as these remarks apply more particularly to the newly plowed lot proposition, the ground will have to be brought into a finer state of cultivation for some of the smaller vegetables.

Onion sets have been exceedingly scarce and expensive this year, and are now entirely off the market. If you have planted seed and have young onions coming on, you can thin them out when about as thick as a pencil and transplant them into rows, and have as good results as you would from onion sets.

In the well established garden remember the time of great evaporation has now come, so keep a fine surface and don't let your plants suffer for water.

A Garden Enemy

April 26, 1917.

Editor California Garden:

This, for the new army of backyard gardeners:

Look out for "cut worms!"

This is the sort of season for them and just the time to watch for the beginners. We are finding them in fern bed, seed box, sand propagating bed in the greenhouse and out of doors around the roots of plants. Not many in a place, but one half-witted "cut-worm" can make a box of seedlings look mighty sick in one night.

The best plan to combat them is to watch closely everything in your garden or lath house. The minute you see any plant having a "chewed" appearance, start a search for a worm, but keeping your eye open for slugs, and snails also.

If you find the worms eating your sweet-peas, aster, cabbage or tomato plants, run for a bag of Slug Shot, which is a pinkish powder, and sprinkle the plants liberally with it. Put it all over them; not alone around the root. On vegetable plants don't be afraid of poisoning yourself when eating vegetables treated with this powder. Nothing in it to hurt human beings, but it's death to anything in the worm line. Beauty of it is, that it is fairly cheap, too.

This "wormy" warning is timely, we think, because of the hundreds of backyard gardens being started. Even old-time, experienced gardeners are sometimes discouraged by the raids of worms, and we don't want the beginners to see their pretty, little radishes and cabbages eaten up so soon, for they might not have the courage to start another garden—and gardens we must have!

Hendersons says:

SLUG SHOT. A non-poisonous powder insecticide; it requires no mixing or preparation, easily applied and not injurious to animals, the person applying it, or fruits and vegetables treated. Very effectual in destroying potato bugs and beetles, green and black flies, slugs, worms, caterpillars, etc.

Timely Garden Hints

From the Department of Agriculture

USE LIME

(Authorized Statement of Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.)

Washington, D. C.—Is it too late materially to increase our national food supply this spring?

Not if our farmers in the eastern half of the country will promptly resort to the use of the cheapest and quickest known agency for speeding up national production of foodstuffs—namely, lime.

Prices of most commercial fertilizers at present are high. Potash is almost unobtainable. Only by most scrupulous conservation of stable manure, and an increased use of legumes as green manure, and of ground rock phosphate, can the commercial fertilizer shortage be met, even temporarily. There remains one thing, however, that may be done to increase yields, which costs no more now than it did before. It may safely be said, I believe, that if all sources of artificial chemical fertilizers failed, our total farm output in many sections could not only be maintained, but even increased for a considerable time simply by the application of liem to acreages that now are low in yield or lying fallow because they are too sour to grow profitable crops. Lime can and should be put on all sour land. By a plentiful use of lime we can, figuratively speaking, make our "war bread" of stones.

There is perhaps no considerable section of the United States without some local supply of limestone, marl or oyster shells. Ground limestone for direct application to the soil costs, delivered on the nearest siding, from $1 per ton up, depending on the length of the haul. If crushed limestone is not available, burned lime, either ground or hydrated for agricultural use or the ordinary lump lime carried by all dealers in building materials, may be used in emergency, though lime in this form is frequently more expensive. On the other hand if burned or hydrated lime is used the applications should be less than one-half those of ground limestone.

Thus there is available for almost every farmer, at normal cost, in spite of war conditions, a material which, for the time being, may avail to increase our agricultural output enormously. The initial returns from the application of lime to sour land are sometimes remarkable. An investment in limestone often pays a dividend of a hundred per cent or more the first year, if care is taken at the same time to maintain the organic content of the soil.

It is the duty of American farmers, in this national crisis, to make the most of this, our cheapest and most easily available agency for speeding up production. War or no war, a carload of crushed limestone where needed is always money in the farmers' pocket at the end of the crop year. And a carload of limestone, judiciously used by each farmer whose land is too acid, will augment our supply of breadstuffs by a surprising number of millions of bushels.

Fertilizer From Tarred Streets May Be Harmful

Washington, D. C.—Those who use street sweepings to fertilize gardens should avoid manure that contains oil or tar. Either of these substances is harmful to plants, specialists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture warn. Sweepings from tarred pavements or oiled roads are likely to contain them. Oil droppings from motor cars often mix with such waste, also. If sweepings are collected with some care and before rain or water from street sprinklers have reached them and washed out the elements of fertilizing value, they can be used advantageously.

In connection with the spread of the city gardening movement, now popular throughout the country, the Department of Agriculture believes a warning in regard to oil and tar damage should be given. A specialist in the Bureau of Chemistry cites an instance of damage done to a garden near Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland, on which unsorted street sweepings from the District of Columbia were used. This garden, according to the specialist, was ruined by the tar products in the fertilizer and it was necessary to remove the top soil and resurface the entire plot with new soil. It is suggested by this official that with some attention to detail it might be possible to collect sweepings from streets that are not tarred, and perhaps from other public places.

Hall's Book
GARDEN HELPS
75 cents
At 727 E Street

Tenth Annual Rose Show

THE Tenth Annual Rose Show of the San Diego Floral Association, held April 28 and 29, in the Kern-Tulare Counties Building, at the Exposition grounds, was in many ways the most successful ever held.

In the first place it would be hard to imagine at more ideal place in which to hold a flower show. The beautiful park itself gives the proper environment, and the artistic building, where the display was made, lent itself readily to the most pleasing arrangement. Ample light comes in from the ceiling and from high windows, without a dazzling glare from direct rays.

But perhaps the greatest advantage of holding the flower show in the park is because John Morley is there as Park Superintendent and has a corps of helpers who are most efficient in floral decoration. Mr. Morley accepted the responsibility of covering the walls with green, and when the Floral Association workers arrived on the scene to do their part Friday, they found what might be mistaken for the entrance to a tropical jungle. With a wealth of potted shrubs, trees, and plants near at hand, from which to select, the south end of the building was a harmonious blending of many shades of green, with here and there a flash of brilliant color, and from somewhere up above came a murmuring brook that rippled and gurgled down over weathered rocks into a little pond where bloomed aquatic lilies of many hues.

The jungley effect was continued around the room, the wall being covered with eucalyptus boughs, acacia, and various kinds of shrubs and vines, with an occasional climbing rose bush in full bloom. The principle exhibits made bulges from out of the greenness and each furnished something different and intensely interesting.

E. Benard, the Mission Valley Nurseryman, had an excellent display of roses in boxes and cut-flowers. His reputation as a grower of fine roses is well established and the showing made at the exhibition furnished further evidence of his ability.

The Harris Seed Co. had a large display of healthy looking nursery stock comprising almost everything that one might think of to fill any possible vacant spot in the garden, and as a necessary adjunct showed various safety first appliances in the way of insecticides.

Boyle & Darnaud, as usual, put up a display that showed much care and thought. An American Flag in flowers had the wavy look of a real flag. The red and white stripes were made of carnations, the blue field of immortelles, and the stars were watsonia blooms. Prominently displayed in the center of their exhibit was an aristocratic orchid that was much admired. They also had some very fine roses raised under glass, which gave no suspicion of the fine spring shower which had visited us the day before.

Miss Kate Sessions, of the Mission Hills Nursery, seems to always pick the unusual, and little known plants for her displays, and perhaps that is the reason we always nose around her tables to see what are her latest discoveries. She had some here and there among her roses, immortelles and sparaxis, but I am not going to attempt to give you their names and habits of growth.

Among the amateurs, F. L. Hieatt is one of the most recent enthusiasts. Last year he seemed to awaken to the joys of raising flowers and carried away several ribbons at the Rose Show, and this year was present with a fine table of roses. The judges lingered long over a specimen that stood alone in a vase, in the center of his table. They finally gave it the yellow ribbon, proclaiming it the second best rose in the show, and hung the blue ribbon on a bloom grown by Mrs. H. H. Ross of Point Loma.

Mrs. John W. Mott displayed a flag made from the flowers in her own garden. The red was geranium; the white, sweet alyssum; the blue, cornflower, and the stars, the white blooms from the potato vine.

Mrs. A. D. Robinson had some wonderful pansies, very large and velvety, and in the deep, soft, pleasing shades. Mr. Robinson showed some fine Rosecroft roses, with Gen. McArthur standing out as the most glorious of the reds. He also had some interesting annuals. Mr. Robinson always fits his displays to the needs of the show. If many fall down at the last minute he will come through with an almost unlimited amount, but dropping in on Friday afternoon, and seeing that space would be at a premium, he only brought over enough to show his interest and kindly feeling.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bradshaw were well represented florally, Mrs. Bradshaw winning the blue ribbon for the best decorated table

other than roses. Miss Leda Klauber was second. Mrs. Chas. Cressey was first and Mrs. C. W. Darling second on the rose tables.

W. H. C. Lawrence took the first prize for display from a fifty-foot lot, and also on his display of bulb flowers.

The visitors to the show expressed great interest in the displays of vegetables and flowers from the schools and individually by the school children. The agricultural department of the city schools is certainly doing excellent work and the results of their efforts were very much in evidence. Miss Sessions and Mr. Winfield Hale, and their assistants in each school, have reason to be proud of what has been accomplished.

Another exhibit worthy of particular mention was the collection of native shrubs, brought in from Mahogany Canyon by Guy L. Fleming. He had thirty-four distinct varieties all carefully labeled.

Mr. Hale was chairman of the Show Committee this year and displayed a world of energy in looking after the many details. Messrs. Millenbaugh, Hieatt and Hubert Birch were efficient additions to the faithful ones who are always on hand at show-time and a few of the regulars were missed.

The doors were to open at ten o'clock Saturday morning and even before that time the visitors began to arrive. About 1,200 paid to enter that afternoon and evening, besides several hundred school children who were admitted free and on Sunday the crowd was immense. At times they were waiting on the outside to get in. At least 5,000 people must have seen the flowers, and the remarks as they went out were most appreciative.

Aside from the regular organ concerts each afternoon, the 21st Infantry Band played on the balcony in the Kern Building, and Saturday evening the Children's Orchestra from the San Diego Conservatory of Music gave several delightful numbers.

President Stephen Connell may be justly proud of his first rose show, which was not only a great success from an artistic and floral standpoint, but enabled the Floral Association to turn over to the Red Cross Society more than $250.00.

The Awards

Best collection of roses—Not less than twelve varieties and not over three flowers of a kind. First, F. L. Hieatt; second, Mrs. F. T. Scripps, Pacific Beach.

Best collection of six varieties of roses—Not over three of a kind. First, Mrs. J. C. Thompson; second, Miss A. N. Fenton.

Best six white roses of one variety. First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook; second, F. L. Hieatt.

Best six pink roses of one variety. First, Mrs. L. M. Schiller; second, C. F. Naylor.

Best six red roses of one variety. First, C. F. Naylor; second, Mrs. F. T. Scripps.

Best six yellow roses of one variety. First, F. L. Hieatt; second, Maxfield Cook, Chula Vista.

Best six shaded yellow roses. First, W. S. Rosie; second, F. L. Hieatt.

Best six shaded pink roses. First, N. F. Maw; second, F. L. Hieatt.

Best arranged basket of roses by any amateur (medium sized basket). First, Mrs. L. L. Mulhall, Coronado; second, Mrs. George Hart, Lemon Grove.

Best arranged basket of flowers other than roses. First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook, Chula Vista; second, Mrs. E. R. Mason.

Best arranged basket of wild flowers. First, Mrs. E. R. Mason.

Best arrangement of flowers in bowl, vase or dish. First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook.

Best display of bulb flowers. First, W. H. C. Lawrence; second, Mrs. J. L. Hilliard, Point Loma.

Best display of pansies. First, Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Point Loma; second, Mrs. W. J. Bower.

Best display of wild flowers by any school. First, Ocean Beach school; second, Francis Parker school (with cultivated wild flowers).

Best display of annuals. First, Mrs. F. T. Scripps; second, J. C. Ford.

Best one rose, any variety exhibited singly in this class. First, Mrs. H. H. Ross, Point Loma; second, F. L. Hieatt.

Best display from a fifty-foot lot. First, W. H. C. Lawrence.

Best collection of flowers grown by any one public school. First, Lincoln school; second, Grant school; third, Emerson school.

Best display of vegetables from any school garden. First, Grant school; second Lincoln school; third, Fremont school.

Best display of vegetables grown in home gardens under school direction. First, Florence school; second, Logan school; third, Sherman school.

Best vegetables grown by pupil in home garden. First, Herbert Styris of Florence school; second, Mamie Chubb, Florence school; third, Fred Duerrhammer, Logan school.

Best table decoration with roses. First, Mrs. Charles Cressey; second, Mrs. C. W. Darling, Chula Vista.

Best table decoration other than roses. First, Mrs. J. H. Bradshaw, California poppies; second, Miss Leda Klauber, nasturtiums.

Special Prizes for Amateurs

Special prizes were awarded for other meritorious displays as follows:

Annuals—Mrs. A. S. Bridges.

Spanish iris—Mrs. J. L. Hilliard.

Basket of blue larkspur and bloomeria—Garfield school.

Irish Elegance rose—Mrs. Maxfield Cook.

Japanese iris in bamboo vase—J. L. Chapman.

Sweet peas—Mrs. J. W. Bower.

Bouquet of salpiglossis—Brooklyn school.

Special school—Meritorious Exhibit.

Display of California poppies, for quality and staging—The Sherman school.

American flag—Mrs. John W. Mott.

General McArthur roses—A. D. Robinson.

Class 2—For Professionals

Best collection of twenty-five varieties of roses. First, E. Benard, Mission Valley Nursery; second, Boyle & Darnaud.

Best twelve red roses of one variety. First, Boyle & Darnaud.

Best twelve yellow roses of one variety. First, E. Benard; second Boyle & Darnaud.

Best twelve pink roses of one variety. First, E. Benard; second Boyle & Darnaud.

Best twelve white roses of one variety. First, Boyle & Darnaud; second, E. Benard.

Best twelve yellow shaded roses. First, E. Benard.

Best twelve shaded pink roses. First Boyle & Darnaud; second E. Benard.

Handsomest vase of roses, not over twelve blooms. First, Boyle & Darnaud; second, E. Benard.

Best rose never before exhibited in San Diego. First, E. Benard, with Countess de Cayla.

Best exhibit of cut ornamental vines. First, Boyle & Darnaud, with stephanosus.

Special Prizes to Professionals

Display of orchids and meritorious display of hot house grown stock. Boyle & Darnaud.

Potted rose bushes. E. Benard.

Sparaxis pulcherrinea—K. O. Sessions.

Native shrubs—Guy L. Fleming.

Why Not a Dahlia Show?

By A. D. Robinson

THE time seems ripe to talk of a Dahlia show for it is now grown in our gardens just as much as roses and its variety in form and color tend to make an ideal exhibition flower. The best season would probably be late July or early August and classes should be made fully as generously as we do for roses, and table decoration brought in also So much merely to set all growers thinking show and preparing for one by proper culture.

Today I have planted my most prized seedling, the white peony "Star in the East", just as the first tuber left in the ground is showing color of bud. The absence of moisture in March allowed the keeping over of tubers much longer than former years and I have still a number to put in that have not suffered by the delay. This will retard the main blooming season, a desirable feature. It is not too late to plant even to the end of this month.

Dahlias just pushing through the ground are very attractive to slugs and snails and should be visited just before going to bed with one's favorite tools for hunting these marauders; as before advised a pair of candy tongs and a pot of slacked lime are most efficacious and save sensitive feelings. The lime dusted on the shoot is also good, but loses its charm when wet.

As in former years I still strongly recommend pinching back dahlias preferring to confine each plant to one strong shoot which I cut back when it has made two or three sets of leaves and again decapitating the resulting side shoots and with weedy growers doing it a third time. It delays blooming perhaps a week or ten days, but obviates the necessity of a stake and makes a much better shaped clump.

Also I consider the basining and mulching method of culture far the best and easiest handled. When the plants are about to bud a large basin four feet in diameter is made and filled with some mulch, preferably strawy manure, and after that nothing but watering —in cool weather every ten days or two weeks; in warm, every week. Also on hot days the entire plant may be sprinkled in the evening with good result though this treatment may discolor full blown blooms of delicate shade. Where many dahlias are grown wide trenches can be profitably substituted for basins.

There is no doubt that dahlias respond gratefully to disbudding which tends to larger blooms and longer stalks.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

INTO my garden on a Sunday, not long since, strayed one in the uniform of a soldier. Round his waist were ball cartridges and in his belt a bayonet or some kind of an instrument to explore the interior of other men, but his errand was extremely peaceful if not prosaic, for he wanted lemons to make lemonade. The lemon business was quickly and happily disposed, as I regard him as my best friend who will pick most lemons off my trees without asking me to pay the freight, and it became evident that my soldier would talk of other things than war, of flowers and bananas and perhaps chickens, so we sat down in the lathhouse and I learned he was a Scotchman and a New Yorker and that lemons grew on trees and bananas upon big stalks was a delightful discovery. I cut him a bunch of bananas, with the necessary explanation that they were not a very good eating kind, and a great bunch of giant lemons, long past marketable size, and he went back with the joy of a boy presented with his first baseball outfit. Let me tell you that my soldier was one well equipped for his business; the thews of him were visibly present everywhere, and he stood on his legs like a live oak on a hillside and doubtless given the necessity he would put his bullets and his knife to deadly purpose, but till the necessity arrived he wanted flowers and lemonade.

Now we are going to have in San Diego lots of these men of war, who yet appreciate the little things of peace and why should not our Floral Association take into their camps the beauty and sweetness of flowers with the message from Mother Nature they always carry. There is an advertising side, but for all that is decent let us forget that and do it because we want our defenders, our fighters, Crusaders, if you please, who cannot wage ruthless war and because we recognize they are citizens like ourselves, only more so. Of course this suggestion is for an orderly delivery of decoration at appointed times under the direction of the proper officers and does not contemplate turning loose upon the camp every inquisitive or emotional person who can secure a blossom which is clearly a menace to all discipline and that is why an organization like the Floral Association might take it up. There may be very good reasons why the whole suggestion is impractical and early-birdian, in which case it naturally will die stillborn, but it has kept coming back in my mind ever since I saw my soldier lovingly inspecting flowers and hugging a mouldy bunch of bananas, and I like the idea of a sort of mysterious appearance of flowers at the camp mess with no one to thank, no one to pay, nothing to do but enjoy their beauty and fragrance. That is nature's method, and God's too, I believe, though we have decided on a form of thanks that we believe well pleasing to our maker. Once in a while I would like a simple flower left at each plate, a pansy, a head of mignonette, a baby rose and when I analyse this wish I find I want to keep a spot in our boys' hearts that is not war obsessed; a link with peace, a touch of the work of that wonder-worker, Nature, whose building is the Mystery of life.

It is not necessary to have anything but a wink of a soul to love flowers and be the better for seeing them around. At the last Rose Show of blessed memory, the attendance was so immense, a very raggedy man looked wistfully through the door. He was indeed a thing of rags and patches, but no dreamy lullaby and the doorkeeper invited him in and smiled when he said he had not the price, a mere dime. He had a better pass, a lingering love of the beautiful and he spent an hour feasting the best side of him. I like to think that raggedy man went to the show. I wish I could have gone round with him and sorted his preferences. I want to know whether he liked better the big fleshy, full-bellied rose or the delicate thing of few petals that curled at the edge with the spiral of a shell. I wonder what was his favorite color and hope that it was not red, that flag of abundant life, but untamed passion and sometimes I want to be a raggedy man myself without any pass but love. You all know that poem of the Raggedy man that the children love, and the grown-ups do too without acknowledging the same. I remember the man I last heard recite it and I go back to a point in San Francisco Bay where he lived and the time I sat on his porch in the springtime, but there I must cease fluttering and go to roost.

The California Garden and membership in the Floral Association, both one year, $1.50.

Californians Abroad

By Guy L. Fleming

(Continued)

TRUE Gentians are somewhat rare in California, but several fine species are found in the higher mountains. Some of these have found their way into the Alpine gardens across the Atlantic. "G. calycosa is a truly beautiful flower, rivaling the sky with its deep-blue blossoms."

Another member of the gentian family held in high esteem for dry plantings is Erythraea venusta; the "canchalagua", which is so common on our hillsides and mesas, all the long summer.

In these dry gardens we find also many of our fine gilias; one, Gilia Californica is almost a shrub and has flowers more than an inch in diameter.

Note—When looking over the garden books of the Old World you will find much mention of alpine gardens, rock gardens, water gardens, dry walling, dry planting, etc. It would seem that the gardeners over there make a study of the particular needs of each plant, and place them in an environment best suited to their development.

Living abroad has so changed our Sunflower friends, Helianthus annus and H. Californicus that we hardly recognize them.

Hesperochiron Californicus and H. pumilus are alpine plants from the Sierra Nevadas. They bloom early in the spring, making a show of white bell-shaped flowers.

And in the land of the true holly we find the California Holly, which has established itself in the shrubby plantings. It is there known by its full name, Heteromeles arbutifolia; the last because the leaves somewhat resemble those of the arbutus, or Strawberry-tree.

Heuchera Hartwegii is grown because of its beautiful foliage. "The leaves are usually mottled in light green and richly veined in dark brown or red, and they often turn to a rich red later in the season."

Our Sea-dahlias, Leptosyne maritima, seems to enjoy equal honors with its cousin Coreopsis lancelata.

Leptosiphon—"A fine annual for light soils. Hybrid varieties interesting because of the many singular shades." I find no account of this plant in any of the botanies, but it is listed as coming from California and the description sounds as though it should have.

Librocedrus decurrens, Incense Cedar, is found in the planting with the Himalaya Cedar and the Cedar of Lebanon. It is a native of all the higher mountains along the coast. In our "back-country" you may see specimens so tall that it takes several looks to see the top.

California's lilies are known around the world. The early collectors did their part in bringing wonders of the wilds before flower lovers. But to Carl Purdy, of Ukiah, must go the credit for the wealth of our native lilies in other lands. He is said to export some 75,000 wild lily bulbs per year.

The greater part of these lilies grow in deep woods of the northern part of the State, but most of them should do well here in shaded locations.

The following list is from an English garden book; Lilium Humboldti, 6 to 8 feet, leaves a bright green, flowers bright golden-yellow spotted with crimson-purple. Plant in leafy soil of good depth. This is found on Volcan mountain.

Lilium pardalinum, stems 3 to 7 feet. This is considered one of the handsomest of Californian lilies. The large drooping flowers are bright orange spotted with maroon. It blooms late. Many beautiful varieties have been produced from it.

Lilium Parryi, elegant slender growth, 2 to 4 feet, flowers trumpet shaped, rich yellow spotted with chocolate-red and delicately perfumed. This lily grows in our southern mountains.

Lilium Washingtonianum, Washington Lily. This is a grand lily with stems 2 to 5 feet high. The flowers are pure white, dotted with purple, and very fragrant.

Lilium rubescans, Ruby Lily. "This is the most fragrant of all California flowers or perhaps of any in the world, and in loveliness it surpasses the beautiful Washington lily. The perfumes of all the spices seem blended and poured into their waxen cups, which they generously give out to the passing breeze."

"Searching and strange in its sweetness,
It steals like a perfume enchanted
Under the arch of the forest, and all who
Perceive it are haunted,
Seeking and seeking forever, till sight of
The lily is granted."

—Henry Van Dyke.

The above are all "Tiger Lilies".

"There is a place where the tiger lilies,
Like the garden of a dream,
Thick-banked and tall on either hand
Have lined a mountain stream.

And the pines are dark above that place,
And the ferns are dark below;
And the stream flows murmuring on and on
Down from its heights of snow.

—Alberta Bancroft.

(To be continued)

Monthly Excursion In and Around Balboa Park

By G. R. GORTON

TULIPS are calling at the Botanical Building this month, and those who heed the call will be rewarded by an exceptionally fine display of several varieties of the Darwin type. Especially effective is the grouping of one of the pink varieties in the east wing of the lath house. The humble pelargonium—although this humility is not noticeable to those persons who have tried, and vainly, to make one of them grow where it didn't see fit to—plays no small part in the color effect of the Botanical Building. It is present in a half dozen varieties, all good—some especially so.

There are a number of potted Festuca glauca—one of the fescue grasses—in the center of the lath house and elsewhere—which are interesting because of the fact that they are in flower. The flower has no distinguishing features, neither beauty nor curious habit. The grass itself is decidedly ornamental properly placed, but the flower does not add to its ornamental value.

In all portions of the Park Mesembryanthemum floribundum is calling attention to itself. There are well trimmed borders along the driveways and walks, there are terraces and embankments—particularly those south of the Stadium—all of which testify to the usefulness of this subject, despite its plebeian ancestry.

The rose garden is a center of interest to all who love flowers—and should be so to those who cherish the opinion that "roses do not do well here." There are something like ninety varieties represented in the collection, about ninety-nine per cent of which are "doing well," and furnishing a very convincing demonstration controverting the above mentioned and more or less prevalent opinion.

Edward Mawley, a gorgeous new red of the hybrid perpetual group, is by the way, a variety which has received especial mention as not "doing well" in Southern California. This theory is a total loss when the bed of this variety is seen.

Detroit, one of the good pinks, is a little later than some of the varieties, but is going to be good—because it always is.

Radiance, now very much in flower, is considered by many to be the best pink in the garden. Surely it deserves to rank high. Another good pink, Geo. Arends, is sometimes termed the pink Frau Karl Druschki, which is by way of a description of this very excellent variety. Paul Neyron, the largest of all roses, is well up to standard and its immense red blooms form one of the most conspicuous and admired features of the garden.

Probably the best known—at least by reputation, of the new roses is Howard & Smith's introduction, the Los Angeles, first exhibited in the garden south of the Organ Pavilion and now seen in a large bed as part of the "rosary". This rose should prove a valuable addition to the ranks of suitable varieties for San Diego and vicinity. It is of very thrifty and rapid growth, salmon pink in color, fragrant, of good form both in bud and in full flower.

General McArthur, without which no rose garden (even though it be a garden consisting of but one plant) is complete without this magnificent red, is so well known as to render description unnecessary—suffice to say that it is all a rose should be, both in habit of growth, fragrance, form, hardiness and other desirable qualities, and holds an unchallenged place in the front ranks of the genus rosa. Ulrich Brunner, another prime favorite, which though it is usually relegated in nursery catalogues to the "General collection" and is no longer billed as a headliner, keeps all its old friends, and adds new ones every year. It is looking very well just now. The Cochets have suffered from the unfavorable weather and are not at this writing exactly on parade.

Mrs. Aaron Ward, one of the newer sorts is described by its introducers as an Indian yellow, tinted with salmon, and is an excellent variety, especially for cut flowers. Harry Kirk, another recent introduction, is a decided acquisition to the pitifully small number of good yellow roses.

This year the walks of the rose garden are attractively bordered with many colored iris, replacing the violet edging of last year.

Along one of the walks leading east from West Drive, about opposite Maple street, is a grouping of Escallonia rubra in flower, while still further east the walk is bordered with pansies backed with antirrhinum in mixed colors.

Cotoneasters are in bloom in various locations, a good representative group of sp. angustifolia being along West Drive, about opposite Olive street.

An opportunity is offered for those who have never seen Incarvillea delevayi to end that condition of affairs. Near the edge of the canyon adjoining the tea house this useful bedding plant is to be found planted here and there in the beds bordering the path. On Sixth and Juniper, the Delphinium bed is

(*Continued on Page 14*)

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
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Elite Printing Co. 727 E St., San Diego

The Book of the Peony

From J. B. Lippincott Co., of Philadelphia, comes for review a copy of "The Book of the Peony," by Mrs. Edward Harding, and whereas books in this class of special purpose are usually unattractive to those who don't specialise, this is a pleasing exception. Mrs. Harding evidently knows and loves peonies and has distributed her knowledge with loving touch most interestingly through a fair sized book beautifully printed and illustrated freely in color.

A chart of the native habitats of peonies shows that the native one found in our San Diego mountains so plentifully is known as Brownii and is the only American species. This is rather peculiar in view of the generally accepted fact that peonies won't grow for us, and a study of this very complete treatise leads one to doubt whether this is not another of those "accepted facts" that sooner or later prove exceptions.

Mrs. Harding gives very explicit directions as to the requirements of peonies in location, soil, water, etc., and in reading them the writer found out many good reasons besides geographical ones, why his peonies did not do.

Fresh from a perusal of the book the writer is picking out a location for another trial with peonies and heartily recommends "The Book of the Peony" as a real addition to the Gardener's Library.

This is the only book exclusively devoted to the peony and retails for $6.00.

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, with reports and election of directors will be held Tuesday evening, June 19, at 7:45 in the San Diego Club House. An extra effort will be made to have it a very enjoyable occasion and President Connell makes an urgent request that all members of the association and others interested in flowers be present.

At the May meeting of the Association committees were appointed to make arrangements. Mrs. Blochman is chairman of the refreshment committee, and Mrs. Connell is chairman of the committee on entertainment. The decorating committee consists of Mr. Winfield Hale, Mrs. Greer and Mr. Hubert Birch. A program of music and other interesting features will be provided.

The president, secretary and treasurer will make their reports of the condition of the association, and the editor and manager of the Garden will speak of this magazine.

Another important matter at this time of year is the payment of dues to the Association and subscriptions to California Garden. The managers usually gauge the appreciation of the members by the promptness with which they pay their dues. Also, the Garden usually runs behind somewhat during the year and we have to depend upon the money that comes in before the annual meeting to make a decent showing in the report. If you must economize don't begin on the Floral Association and California Garden, as there isn't a more unselfish enterprise in this section at least.

Send in your money if you can by the first week of June, but if you can't, come to the annual meeting anyway on the 19th, at the San Diego Club House.

There are all kinds of habits, good and bad, but Mrs. M. German has one that we heartily recommend to all of our readers. About the first of May of each year Mrs. German writes a little note which reads something like this: 'Enclosed find check for $10.00 for which please credit memberships and subscriptions for the names herewith and use the balance for any purpose which the officers see fit."

In and Around Balboa Park

(*Continued from Page 13*)

gradually being replaced with Dahlias, but is still at its best, and over on the West Drive southeast of there is a field effect of Delphinium bordered with stocks and Calendulas. The effect of this field of blue and gold with a background of the Exposition Buildings across the canyon, is very striking and beautiful.

Review of Garden Books

By Charlotte Moffitt

WITHIN the last two years, two books have come from the press of Charles Scribner's Sons that are of unusual interest to gardeners. A. Clutton-Brock's "Studies in Gardening" is a collection of articles that first appeared in the London Times. They are, I suppose, especially for the amateur, although their delightful style and quiet humor would lead one to think that the author had no object in the world except to express his own joy in gardening.

Some of the studies are entitled, "Banks and Slopes in Gardening," particularly suggestive to a Californian. The Names of Flowers, embodying a most welcome theory to the slow of tongue to whom Latin names are so discouraging; Columbines, April Common Sense in Gardening, The Right Use of Annuals, English Ideals of Gardening, there is such a charm and titillation in the very names that I can scarcely refrain from giving the entire thirty-two. One does not need to be told that Mr. Clutton-Brock is the art editor of the London Times, to know that he has the seeing eye and a fine discrimination. The book is, of course, English in its atmosphere and details, but Mrs. Francis King, by means of her notes, has so perfectly adapted it to American conditions that the hearty commendation accorded it in her introduction is more than justified.

The other book is by Mrs. King, herself. She has given it a carefully-chosen and happy title—"The Well-Considered Garden." I cannot give here any adequate idea of the helpfulness and suggestiveness of this book. It has been on my shelf for more than a year and I still find myself constantly referring to it. Such chapters as Color Harmony, Joys and Sorrows of a Trial Garden, Balance in the Flower Garden, Midsummer Pomps are fountains of suggestion and inspiration. It is profusely illustrated with photographs of Mrs. King's own beautiful gardens in Michigan.

I should like to mention here something else that occurs to me in connection with Mrs. King that does not seem to be as well known in California as it should be. She is president of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. This organization is but four years old, but its membership, and the significance of its work have increased so remarkably that this year's conference, now in session in Washington, D. C., has attracted the attention of the government and among those who are to address its meetings are Hon. Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Herbert Quick of the Farm Loan Board, Miss Ethel Mather Bagg, Special Representative in America of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, Dr. Bradford Knapp, Chief of Extension Work in the South, U. S. Department of Agriculture and Dr. L. O. Howard of the National Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

Every one interested in growing things from the rare specimens on the great American estates to the geranium in the window box, is eligible to membership. Its organ, "The Quarterly," is especially helpful to all those who farm and garden for profit. It seems a pity that there are so few California women among its members. In a state where so many of them are seriously engaged in agriculture there should be a contingent of numbers that would be conspicuous for its variety of farm activities and efficiency. Through the association it could be brought into contact with those in distant parts of the country and the mutual benefit would be immeasurable. In the November number of "The Quarterly," Miss Myra L. Dock, one of the vice-presidents, says: "What is our association for? To compare pleasant experiences, or to recognize that the members of the association are carrying on its work because they are both trained and experienced, and that from such a gathering should come a great determination to enlarge every field of useful education for those persons who wish to dedicate, not the talents of a few, but the energies of the many, to lives of usefulness which shall strengthen our country."

The purpose of the association is earnest and those connected with it who join their energies toward the furthering of this purpose, may well feel that they are adding something of permanent value to the life of this great country.

The main office is at 600 Lexington avenue, New York City.

La Jolla, April 26, 1917.

Directors' Meeting

At a recent meeting of the directors of the San Diego Floral Association, held at the store of the Frevert-Bledsoe Furniture Co., the resignation of R. W. Sumner as secretary was received, he having moved to Los Angeles, and with regret was accepted. The election of his successor was considered and the Board consider themselves fortunate in securing Mr. Winfield Hale to fill the vacancy.

A Sermon from the Hills

Under this heading the Rev. W. B. Thorp has reveried most delightfully when in the mountains near Descanso. The result is in print in a neat pamphlet and presumably there are other copies than the one that came to the California Garden. Get one if you can and read it and know that whatsoever a man calls God is there among the everlasting hills, and God help him who cannot find some of the steps to the throne in the great unspoiled spaces of the Cuyamacas.

Now is the time to renew membership in the San Diego Floral Association and subscription to California Garden

Geo. P. Hall's Book

Garden Helps

Written by the man who knew best the garden requirements and soil needs of Southern California.

Price 75c at 727 E St.

You'll Be Disappointed

The postman delivered the Garden and you immediately turned to this page expecting to have a broad smile, if not a real laugh, but the Robinsonian touch is absent. The fact is, Mr. Robinson didn't write an ad this month and that gives ME a chance to get in a word.

READ THIS CAREFULLY

Any family with even a small back yard can keep a dozen hens by feeding them the scraps from the table in the morning and a little grain in late afternoon.

Our little flock has saved us the garbage removal expense, and has more than paid for their feed, in eggs that we KNOW are fresh. It is mighty fine to go down and get even three eggs in the evening, but from six to eight is not uncommon, and besides, nothing is more cheery and back-to-the-farmish than the cackle of an industrious hen. The rooster can be eliminated.

If you get a dozen about old enough to lay you can keep them for two years and then eat or sell them and be nothing out on your investment.

Now, if you have decided to try it, get a dozen that you will be proud of by writing or calling up Mr. Robinson, at Rosecroft Barred Rock Yards, Point Loma. Tell him you read this ad in The Garden, and then the laugh will be on him instead of you.

I DARE you to do it.

GUY KEENE.

Rosecroft
Barred Rock Yards
Point Loma, California
Alfred D. Robinson, Proprietor

COME to the annual meeting *of* the Floral Association at San Diego Clubhouse Tuesday evening, June 19, at 7:45.

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